

Application N .: 09/837800Case No.: 48317US033**Remarks**

Claims 33-37, 76-78, 50-53, 55-63, and 65-72 have been rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Simpson in view of McKim. Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection cannot be sustained for the reasons presented in applicants Amendment mailed June 12, 2002. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the patentability of the claimed subject in view of those arguments.

Claim 33 has been amended to specify the position of the exhalation valve on the mask body and to specify where the curvature at least occurs in the flexible flap.

Respectfully submitted,

Date

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By:

  
Karl G. Hanson, Reg. No.: 32,900  
Telephone No.: (651) 736-7776

Office of Intellectual Property Counsel  
3M Innovative Properties Company  
Facsimile No.: 651-736-3833